## AMONG THE CLOUDS,

A Reporter's Visit to the Top of the Washington Monument.

How the World Looks when Seen from That Dizzy Height.

Houses Seem Like Toys and Men on Bicycles Like Crawling Guats.

Strange Visitors Who Have Climbed the Stairs to Meet Death.

A silver-lined cumulus cloud drifted lazily past the dizzy-heighted crest of the Washington monument yesterday afternoon and almost brushed its moist edges against a REPUBLICAN reporter who stood on the edge, 434 feet above the earth. The busy hum of the active city far below had a distant sound, while the view reminded one of Gulliver's Liliputian cities. Not the least interesting feature of this trip to the clouds was the ascent on a platform elevator, which went trembling up the height as though it was panting and straining in the effort. The ascent required nine minutes, during four of which the party was in almost total darkness. As the elevator neared the top, and the passengers realized that there were 400 feet of thin air between the elevator wore 400 feet of thin air between the elevator floor and the ground, they naturally became a little squeamieh. Mr. J. M. Perreard, a small Frenchman, who was among the number, enused the others to laugh heartily by gradually inclining his body toward the center of the unrailed elevator platform until it had reached an angle of 45 degrees. He explained that there was no railing or other object to hold on to, and that some invisible magnetic power seemed very anxious to draw him to the edge. The trip was similar in some respects to the passage through a long railroad tunnel.

The clevator stops with a jerk when the top is reached. The passengers do not alightfrom the platform at once, but stand enraptured for a few moments gazing at the

from the platform at once, but stand enrap-tured for a few moments gazing at the picturesque scene which is spread out in-stantly before them as if some mysterious panoramic spring had been touched. The brisk hammering and hoarse shouting of the force of workmen are alike un-hoeded. The eye is enchanted and "the ear heareth not." The gaze is first attracted by the broad, muddy surface first attracted by the broad, muddy surface of the Potomac, stretching away to the southward. The green and featoring flats are soen at their worst, dividing the river from the Long bridge south and north. Old Fort Washington, fourteen miles away, can be plainly seen, its grim and gray battlements outlined against the dark green hills beyond. The two and three-masted schooners, with sails set, appeared as very small toy sailboats, seudding about on a town lot pond. The old-fashioned town of Alexandria was perfectly visible, although created by somber feetly visible, although created by somber clouds of dust and smoke, and seemed to be nestling as close as possible to the red Po-

A broad, green country stretched away to the west and southwest, dotted with farm houses and backed by towering green hills. Beyond these hills the tops of the historic Blue Ridge mountains, sixty-five miles away were easily seen through a pair of ordinary opera glasses. They had the appearance of clouds of blue mist on the far-away horizon. Long stretches of yellow breast-works and fortifications constructed during the late war relieved the deep green of the fields at inter-

The bird's-eye view of Washington city, from the east and north, is beautiful almost beyond imagination. Even the capitol, with its high dome, appeared to be nestling as close to the earth as it could get. To look at the bronzo Goddess of Liberty on the dome top from the monument instantly gives the observer a gauge to the enormous height of the latter. The Goddess is far below.

The series of parks south of Pennsylvania avenue, from the botanical garden to the Washington monument, presented a pretty

Washington monument, presented a pretty pleture, with their green awards, curving and intersecting roadways, and innumerable gar-den plots, with masses of bright colored flowers interspersing. The thousands of red brick buildings in the center of Washington gave the city a general red appearance, which was only relieved by the white marble public buildings. Men, horses, and wagons on the broad circular roadway in the white house park beneath the monument appeared so minute that it seemed possible to bold them in one's closed hand. A file of bicyclists, riding over the same roadway, looked like a procession of very small, long-legged gnats. Visitors to the monument top are impressed with the very cool and careless manner in

which the workmen walk around on the very edge of the shaft. Climbing about in the fruil safety netting beyond the edge, they remind the observer of human spiders in

twenty-four hours to make the ascent. Upon reaching the top, she looked wildly about for a moment, and probably becoming frightened at the and probably becoming frightened at the workmen and the noise they made sho ran to the edge and sprang off. During the descent the poor animal turned rapidly like a whirlight, but landed on the ground on all fours. Remarkable as it may seem, that cat was not killed by the fail, but after collecting her sensea for a minute sho started to run away. A large dog spied her at this juncture, and quickly killed the feline heroine of the greagest aerial trip on record. Last season five rats elimbed up the stairs to the top at different times to get the crumbs from the five rats climbed up the stairs to the top at different times to get the crambs from the workmen's lunches. The men chased them around in each instance until they sprang off. These little animals were not so lucky as the cat. They were crushed into shapeless masses by the fall. During the summer thousands of wasps fly to the top and build their nests among the iron girders. A flock of pigeons from the city have also discovered that a point dil feet above the habitations of man is a pretty safe place to roost at night. They fly up to the top at twilight, after the men have stopped work, and remain on the from frame work until daylight.

men have stopped work, and remain on the fron frame work until daylight.

One of the stone mesons told the reporter that the summit of the monument is a terri-bie place to be during a thonder storm. He had seen the lightning flashing about, above, and below him, while the thunder peals al-most knocked him from his feet. 'Il have seen,' he said, 'a great flash of lightning blaze and cruckle among the fron work above my head, and then follow the sirders through my head, and then follow the girders through the inside to the ground, brilliantly illu-minating the dark jutarier for an instant interior for an instant and filling the air with a strong sulphurous

The Washington monument will be the highest work of man to be found in the world. It reached a hearnt of 434 feet yesterday and the enormous weight of 90,000 tons. The highest point reached by man so far is the spire of the cathedral at Cologne, which is 520 feet high, and was completed in 1882. The Washington monument will be 555 feet high when completed. The tallest of the great pyramids is only 450 feet in height. The monument will be capped with a pyramidal peak 55 feet high. Visitors will be allowed to look through large windows on each of the feur sides 500 feet from the ground. e Washington monument will be the

ground.

There is a quadrangular staircase on the inside from the bottom to the top, and an elevator, which carries up stone and visitors, who obtain a pass. The structure is not as dark as might be supposed, considering that there are no windows in the shark, the light coming in through two doors at the base and at the tor. What completed its will assume coming in through two doors at the base and at the top. When completed it will doubtless be lighted with electricity. The number of steps, estimating the rise at 8 inches, will be 740, and the number to ascend the base 25. It is proposed that the steps inside the shart be unde of iron and painted two colors, light and dark, alternate, as in the staircase in the 8 mithsonian institution, or the trued by made of light and dark tiling, alternate, as is a staircase in the same of light and dark tiling, alternate, as a staircase from June 10.

these two-colored steps being much safer in dark places. Also the steps neverting to the monument to be made of light and dark marble or granite, alternate, as after and more beautiful. Upon the completion of the shaft in the fall the event will be celebrated with imposing cerem

ERICSSON'S TORPEDO SYSTEM. Letter of the Secretary of the Navy

Urging an Appropriation for Building a Versel, Gun, and Torpedo.

The secretary of the navy yesterday transmitted to the senate papers from Capt, John Ericsson calling attention to his system of submarine torpedo attack, as exemplified in the Destroyer, and urging congress to appro-priate \$100,000 for the purpose of building a vessel, gun, and torpedoes, embodying his ideas

on the subject.

In submitting the report the secretary of the navy says it is generally known that Capt. Eriesson has constructed a submarine gun and mounted it on a small vessel, which he calls the Destroyer. This gun discharges a subaqueous projectile torpede about 25 feet long, weighing 1,500 pounds, and probably capable of carrying an explosive charge of capable of carrying an explosive charge of 300 pounds. If on the discharge of this gun the torpede can be made to pursue its intended course with safety, accuracy, and good velocity to a reasonable distance, with good velocity to a reasonable distance, with assured explosion when in contact with the enemy, it will be a formidable weapon, as it is much heavier, and also carries a heavier bursting charge than the other movable torpedoes now in vogue, and it would be to the advantage of the United States to possess it.

possens it.

It would be prudent, the secretary says, to at would be prudent, the secretary says, to determine the value of the weapon itself before accepting Ericsson's proposition to appropriate \$160,000 for a vessel, gun, and torpedo, because if the gun and torpedo should fail the beat itself would probably prove of no value. Capt. Ericsson informed the department that he has made many experiments with the cun and reviewing of the Department that he has made many experiments with the gun and projectile of the Destroyer with satisfactory results. The department, however, has had no opportunity of obtaining official knowledge of the performance of the apparatus except once, when a naval heard was assembled to witness a trial of the system. In this instance the flight of the projectile was not satisfactory as rowards accuracy.

flight of the projectile was not satisfactory as regards accuracy.

Capt. Erricson has since announced that all difficulties have been overcome, but he has not signified his willingness to demonstrate this fact before a naval torpede board, although he has been invited to do so. The department, therefore, is unwilling to take the responsibility of accepting this as an accomplished fact. Nevertheless its high appreciation of Capt. Ericason's past service to the country, and its respect for his standing in the world of science and useful invention, prevents its appearing adverse to the presentation of his views to congress nor to the trial

prevents its appearing adverse to the presentation of his views to congress nor to the trial of his present plan of torpedo attack at reasonable expense to the government, and hence submits his proposition.

The secretary expresses the opinion that it would not be wise to appropriate \$160,000 for the construction of a torpedo beat until after fuller experiments to ascertain the practical value of the gun and torpedo. He says it is the belief of the department that with the Destroyer, as at present arranged, the merits of the system may be readily exhibited, provided that two or more service torpedoce are

vided that two or more service torpedoes are manufactured, and this he recommonds. In conclusion the secretary says: "Out of regard, also, to Capt. Ericsson's high reputaregard, also, to cape, Ericason's high reputa-tion and to his services to the country, it would be appropriate action for congress to purchase from him the Destroyer, at a reasonable price, not as a perfected torpedo vessel, but as an experiment, the cost of which ought to be borne by the public and not by any private citizen."

Action of the House Judiciary Committee. At the meeting of the house committee on the judiciary yesterday a favorable report was authorized on the bill of Representative Adams, of New York, amending the revised statutes so that the caths now administered by collector of customs may at the port of New York be administered by such notaries public as may be designated by the collector of customs. A favorable report was also di-rected on the bill of Representative Porkins, dividing the judicial district of Kansas into two divisions to be known as the northern two divisions, to be known as the northern and southern divisions of the district of

A favorable report was also directed on Representative lisbee's bill regealing section 1213 of the revised statutes, so far as it oper-ates to prohibit the promotion of any private soldier in the regular army who has served

as such private soldier for two years.
Section 1218 provides that "no person who
has served in any capacity in the military,
naval, or civil service of the so-called confederate states, or of either of the states in insurrection during the late rebellion, shall be appointed to any position in the army of the United States."

## Mails to Mexico.

The railway mail bureau has completed the schedule for the mail service between points in the United States and the City of Mexico. The service will be daily, and the running time between New York and the City of remind the observer of human spiders in their webs. Notwithstanding this apparent recklesaness, the supprintendent said that not one accident had occurred since the work began.

Several queer incidents have occurred on top of the great monument. On one occasion against and hungry cat ascended the winding stairs to the summit. It probably took her twenty-four hours to make the ascent. Upon reaching the top, she looked wildly about for a moment. line of communication: Pittsburg, Columbus, Ohio: Indianapolis: St. Louis, Sedalia, Mo.; Ohio; Indianapolis; St. Louis, Sedalia, Mo.; Kansas City; La Junta, Col.; Atbuquerque, Riucon, N. M., and El Paso, Texas.

> Distilleries Increasing in Number. The secretary of the treasury has sent to the house a letter from the commissioner of internal revenue recommending that an additional appropriation of \$150,000 be made for salaries and expenses of agents and subordinate officers of the bureau for 1884. The commissioner says: "The increase of expenses is entirely in the salaries of storekeepers and for of distilleries in operation, and in the increased amount of spirits withdrawn from warehouse upon payment of tax and for

> Dakota Territory's Legislature. Senator Harrison has reported favorably to the senate, from the committee on territories, the house bill in relation to the legislature of Dakota territory, which provides that that body shall consist of twenty-four members of the council and forty-eight members of the house of representatives, and that there be elected at the next general election in said territory two members of the council and four members of the house of representatives in

each legislative district.

To Reimburse Miss Baker, Senator Cameron, of Wisconsin, introduced in the senate yesterday a bill to provide for an appropriation of \$20,000 to be applied to reimbursing Miss Delphine B. Baker, for the expenses incurred and labor performed by her in the organization of national homes for dis-abled soldiers and sailors of the army and navy of the United States.

Tire great trotting meeting begins on Tuesday. All the fastest trotters and pacers.

ARMY AND NAVY NOTES.

Private Fred. Morgan, troop G. 1st cavalry, is transferred to the 21st infantry.

The Tallaponsa, towing the United States sloot Sale, arrived at Annapolis yesterday morning from Private John Gibney, troop B, 2d cavalry, is transferred to the 1st cavalry, and will be as-ugued to a troop by the regimental commander.

Capt. Charles D. Viele, 19th cavalry, is appointed to act as inspector on curtain recruiting property at the recruiting rendezivous, No. 112 North Ninth street, St. Louis, Mo.

SOCIAL NEWS AND NOTES. Gossip from the Legations-Garden and

Tea Parties of the Week-Personal Mention.

The Quantico high tea on the steamer The Quantico high tea on the steamer Corcoran Wednesday evening was a most enjoyable affair, and after the heat of the day in the city the cool river breezes were most refreshing. The night ledging house being a charity that appeals to all there was a large response to the requests of the managers. The cabinet families and the most distinguished section people were on the boat, and it was quite a reunion of those whom the lapsing season had given few opportunities for meeting. Music and an excellent supper added to the attractions of the cool, starilt river, and good company, and the cellent supper added to the attractions of the cool, starllt river, and good company, and the tea was even more successful than the one of last year, netting a handsome sum for the lodging house, which relieves so much distress and suffering each winter. The ladies managing the tea made excellent arrangements, and the result quite justified their efforts.

The Argentine minister and Mme. Dominguez have issued invitations for a reception on Monday evening in honor of the seventy-fourth anniversary of the national independence of the Argentine republic. The date of the event is properly May 25, but as that fails on Sunday this year the fote has been postponed until the following evening. The Argentine people made their revolt against Spanish rule in 1810, when they refused allegiance to Joseph Bonaparte, and, after a six years' struggie their independence was established. The day is always celebrated with great rejoicings in the republic, and Sener Dominguez will mark the event here by gathering his diplomatic colleagues, official and social circles, in his spacious legation building on Monday night.

The celebration of the queen's birthday at The Argentine minister and Mme. Do-

The celebration of the queen's birthday at the British legation here and throughout Canada has been postponed for a month at the queen's request in respect for the recent death of the Duke of Albany. The period of official court mourning expired a week since, but the royal family rotain the emblems much longer. The Danish minister and his wife left for their home country some weeks ago. The Chinese minister and his family sail from San Francisco to Hong Kong next Tuesday, and the Italian minister and his wife will sail for their native land in about six weeks. Other cuvoys will follow this lead, and the diplomatic corps will soon be widely scattered.

The garden party for the benefit of the The celebration of the queen's birthday at

The garden party for the benefit of the Garfield Memorial hospital is to be held at the hospital grounds on the afternoon and evening of Decoration day. The managers, who have proved themselves indefatigable on who have proved themselves indetatigable on preceding occasions, propose to make this gardon party an appropriate house warming. The hospital will be open for the reception of patients in June, and the ladies have had several sewing bees at the building lately, to hom the sheets, make the pillow cases, and attend to such essentials.

Mrs. Theresa Fair has lately given some very handsome entertainments at her home in San Francisco, among them a reception to the officers of the United States steamship Hartford, who had shown her pleasant attentions during the gay weeks that the flag ship was in harbor there. Lately she gave a kettledram in honor of Princess Like Like, of Hawaii, and in June she goes to Europe with her children to remain some time.

The members of the supreme court have begun to leave, and already Justices Woods, Matthews, Bradley, Harlan, and Gray have left the city. Chief Justice Waite has been quite indisposed for the past fortnight, but soon leaves, and Justices Miller, Field, and Blatchford will soon be off.

Pere Hyacinthe and Madame Loyson are in the city this week as the guests of Madame Loyson's son, Mr. Ralph Merriman. They will return to France in a few weeks, Presi-dent Grevy having signed the decree legaliz-ing Pere Hyacinthe's church in Paris.

Senator and Mrs. J. P. Jones went to New York this week for a few days' stay. At the adjournment of congress Senator Jones will take his family west for the summer. Miss Louise McCulloch returned last week

from a long visit to friends in New York, and joined her parents at their country place in Prince George county.

Senator Harrison went over to New York last week and spent Sunday with his daugh-ter, who will remain there with her friends for a fortnight longer. The President, as announced, will visit Annapolis on Monday, and will go to New York to attend the Decoration day services at the end of the week.

The Russian minister and Madame de Strave and a large party of guests went to Baltimore on Thursday to attend the Pimlico

Secretary Lincoln and Gen. Sheridan have returned from their fishing trip, and are well bronzed by the winds and waters of Lake

Col. Bonsparte has returned to this country somewhat sooner than he had expected to on account of the illness of one of his children. Mrs. and Miss Cullom will accompany Senator Cullom to Chicago next week, and will then go to their home for the summer,

Miss Whitney, who spent the winter with Mrs. Jones, will pass the month of June with Mrs. Hartshorne at Newport. Ex-Senator and Mrs. Windom have sailed

from Liverpool and will land in New York The hot weather of the past few days is hurrying many people from the city.

Mrs. Dorsheimer left the city this week and will not return until fall.

Representative Russell's family will leave for the north next week.

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recent oness. Hach box contains one anonth's fromment. One dollar a box, or six boxes for \$5. Smilly
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